

Quarantine Expansion Plan for Citrus Greening in Texas

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) obtained input from a Texas Scientific Advisory group regarding the risk of spread of citrus greening based upon current detection information in Texas. Generally, the group indicated positive Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) sample data correlated with positive tree tissue sample data should affect quarantine expansion. Participants agreed that the lag between the identification of positive ACP samples and the identification of positive tree tissue samples was approximately 12 months.

Based upon recommendations from the group, TDA hereby amends the previously adopted citrus greening quarantine expansion plan as follows:

1. If a tree tissue sample is confirmed with a C_t value under 32, the entire county where the sample was collected will be quarantined.
2. If a county has repeated ACP samples (minimum 3 over a 3 month period), with C_t values under 36, and the samples are within 5 miles of a positive tissue sample, the entire county where the ACP samples were collected will be quarantined.

This quarantine expansion plan was first released on April 17, 2012. The plan was reviewed by the Texas scientific advisory group and updated on February 25, 2014, in order to clarify the intent of the original conditions for quarantine expansion and to provide greater flexibility in establishing the perimeter of a quarantined area for ease of enforcement and understanding by those regulated under the quarantine. On April 21, 2014, this plan was further modified based upon scientific data and recommendations from the Texas scientific advisory group.

The Texas scientific advisory group consists of the following: Dr. John da Graca and Dr. Mamoudou Setamou (TAMUK Citrus Center), Dr. Leland Pierson, Dr. David Appel, Dr. Olufemi Alabi (TAMU Plant Pathology & Microbiology and AgriLife Extension, Dr. David Ragsdale TAMU Entomology), and Dr. David Bartels (USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST). Dr. Charla Hollingsworth, Associate Director USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST was included on the call for her additional expertise.